

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CARACA 03792 042301 Z

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ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 ( ADP ) W

----- 113459

R 042055 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9671

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 3792

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: ELAB

SUBJECT: ICFTU OFFICIAL EXPRESSES DESIRE FOR RECONCILIATION WITH  
AFL - CIO

1. V. S. MATHUR, REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR ASIA OF INTERNATIONAL  
CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS, ARRIVED CARACAS MAY 2 TO  
STUDY RURAL WORKERS' ORGANIZATIONS. CALLED UPON LABOR ATTACHE FOR  
ASSISTANCE WHEN HIS INITIAL EFFORTS TO CONTACT LOCAL OFFICIALS  
FAILED.

2. MATHUR RECENTLY ACCOMPANIED ICFTU SECRETARY GENERAL OTTO  
KERSTEN TO CUERNAVACA FOR ORIT FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING. DURING  
COURSE OF CORDIAL CONVERSATION WITH MATHUR, LABOR ATTACHE  
REMARKED  
UPON KERSTEN'S DECISION NOT TO ATTEND ORIT EXECUTIVE BOARD  
MEETING IN WASHINGTON EVEN THOUGH HE COULD HAVE DONE SO EN ROUTE  
TO CUERNAVACA. ACCORDING TO UNOFFICIAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE,  
KERSTEN HAD ASKED FOR A PERSONAL INVITATION FROM AFL- CIO PRESIDENT  
MEANY AS A CONDITION FOR HIS ATTENDANCE AT ORIT EXECUTIVE BOARD  
MEETING, AN INVITATION WHICH MEANY REPORTEDLY BELIEVED  
COULD PROPERLY COME ONLY FROM ORIT ITSELF.

3. MATHUR ASSERTED THAT HE IS ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN KERSTEN " WOULD  
HAVE BEEN DELIGHTED" TO HAVE USED ORIT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING AS  
AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH MEANY. HOWEVER, HE HAD FEARED  
POSSIBILITY OF A SLIGHT AND WAS RELUCTANT TO ATTEND ORIT DISCUSSIONS  
WITHOUT SOME PRIOR INDICATION THAT A MEETING WITH MEANY COULD BE  
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PAGE 02 CARACA 03792 042301 Z

ARRANGED. MATHUR STATED THAT KERSTEN' S FAILURE TO VISIT WASHINGTON IS TYPICAL OF UNFORTUNATE MISUNDERSTANDINGS WHICH ARISE WHEN THERE IS LACK OF CLOSE CONTACT BETWEEN AFL- CIO AND ICFTU. HE EXPRESSED DISMAY THAT THE TWO MAJOR FREE WORLD LABOR ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE SEPARATED AND URGED THE IMPORTANCE OF PREVENTING ANY FURTHER DETERIORATION IN RELATIONS SO THAT STEPS MAY SOON BE TAKEN LOOKING TOWARD THE RESUMPTION OF FORMAL TIES.  
MCCLINTOCK

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NMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a  
\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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